ISSUE 04

AGRIVIEW

JULY-AUGUST 2013

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Government of Saskatchewan
Ministry of Agriculture

Minister's Message

It's been just over a year since I've had the honour of becoming your Minister of Agriculture. I want to share with you the past year's major accomplishments in Saskatchewan agriculture.

Last fall our government committed to the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth. The plan set out some ambitious goals such as increasing crop production by 10 million tonnes, increasing agricultural exports from $10 billion in 2011 to $15 billion, increasing value-added production and becoming a leader in biosciences, all by 2020. I am pleased to report that agriculture exports surpassed $11 billion in 2012 and Saskatchewan continues, for the second year in a row, to be the nation's top agriculture exporting province.

We also established the Global Institute for Food Security in partnership with the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan. Our investment in the Institute was part of a record-setting agriculture research budget for 2013-14: more than $27 million. We also joined the National Research Council, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the University of Saskatchewan to establish the Canadian Wheat Alliance, a five-year $97-million project that will see to the sustainability and profitability of wheat through long-term research and development.

Earlier this year, we hosted the Agriculture Awareness Summit in Regina to discuss the public image of agriculture. Participants in the summit included industry leaders, producers, communicators and government representatives. Discussions focused on how all agriculture stakeholders could come together to improve the public perception of agriculture. As a result, we launched the Agriculture Awareness Initiative, a fund that supports producer groups in activities that reach youth, urban centres, schools or even the general public with the true story on the importance of agriculture.

2013 is also the year of Growing Forward 2 (GF2), a five-year framework of agricultural programming that aims to support farmers, ranchers, processors, researchers, agencies and agribusinesses. GF2 involves $388 million from the federal and provincial governments to grow the industry in a sustainable manner.

Earlier this spring, we announced a record Crop Insurance budget of $198 million with record coverage of $194 per acre, on average. Other enhancements included increasing yields for oats and hard red spring wheat; increasing establishment benefits for field peas, canola and identity-preserved canola; and expanding the insurable area for soybeans and the corn heat unit program. Past improvements like the Unseeded Acreage Benefit (up to $100 per eligible acre), yield cushioning and 100 per cent wildlife damage compensation will also continue.

All of the programs announced and milestones reached in the last year are contributing to our Growth Plan goals. We want to create an environment where our producers can do what they do best, farm and ranch. A strong agriculture economy means a strong provincial economy and a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan citizens.

I wish you the best for this growing season and look forward to another productive year.

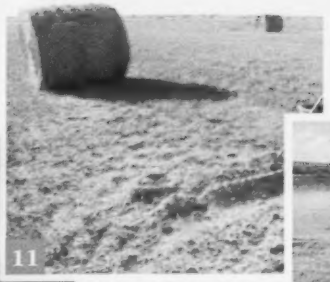
Sincerely,

Lyle Stewart

STORY SNAPSHOTS

Crop profile: Coriander

Improved clubroot testing



Minimizing alfalfa leaf loss

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Government of Saskatchewan
Ministry of Agriculture

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To view this publication online, visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/programs-services.

Special crop profile: coriander

by Dale Risula, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Special Crops
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) is an annual spice crop that grows to a height of approximately 0.6-1 m (2-3 ft.). The fresh green herb is called cilantro, or Chinese parsley. It is used in exotic foods and for flavouring salads, soups and other products such as curry, gin and prepared meats. A number of Saskatchewan processors clean and bag coriander and it has also been steam-distilled. Essential oils and oleoresins are extracted and used in flavouring or as aroma additives.

Coriander is best suited to well-drained and sandy soils.

Coriander is a heat-loving crop that grows on a wide range of soils, but is best adapted to well-drained and sandy loams. Germination is slow, and the crop may take as long as 21 days to emerge. Severe infections of blossom blight can occur in cool, wet conditions or in fields where coriander was recently grown. Coriander should not be planted in the same field more than once in four years.

The recommended seeding rate for large-seeded coriander is 33 kg/ha (30 lb./ac.), and 18 kg/ha (16 lb. /ac.) for the small-seeded coriander. The recommended seeding depth is 2.5 to four cm (one to 1½ in.). Coriander requires a firm, moist seedbed to enhance germination and hasten plant emergence. Any seeding equipment that will provide these conditions is suitable.

Normally seeded in late April to mid-May, coriander seedlings have some tolerance to spring frost. Research has indicated higher seed yields and oil levels can be achieved by seeding before May 20. Dormant fall seeding may also be an option.

A late spring in Saskatchewan hampered seeding in 2013, so acreage this year will be less than the 15,500 acres seen in 2012. Warm temperatures will be necessary for crop development and harvest of the 2013 crop. Market analysts forecast shortfalls in supply and anticipate increases in prices for 2013.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Dale Risula, Provincial Specialist, Special Crops, at 306-787-4465 or dale.risula@gov.sk.ca, or
- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

UNDERSTANDING CROP WATER USE TO IMPROVE YOUR IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT

by Rory Cranston, PAg
Irrigation Agrologist, Outlook
Regional Services Branch

Irrigation water management is a complex process that ensures that water is not a limiting factor when it comes to yield and quality of irrigated crops. Understanding crop water use is a critical part of creating an effective and efficient irrigation management strategy that will maximize yield and profit.

Crop water use, also known as evapotranspiration, is the total amount of water used in crop production. This includes evaporation from the soil and plant surface as well as the water used by the plants for growth, development and transpiration.

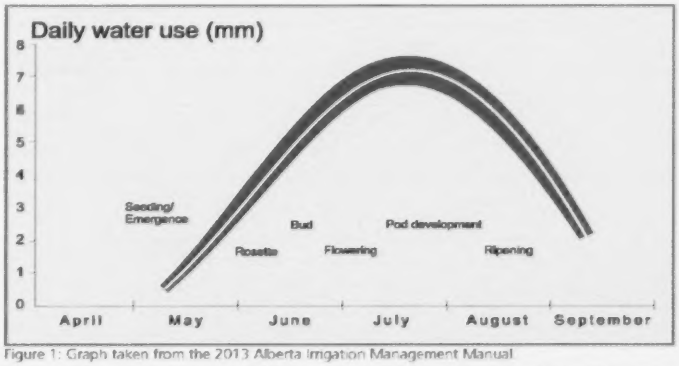


Figure 1: Graph taken from the 2013 Alberta Irrigation Management Manual

The amount of water a crop uses in a day and throughout a season is determined by several factors.

The type of crop grown will affect water use. Canola, cereals and alfalfa have a high seasonal crop water use. Pulses are very efficient users of water, and therefore have a lower seasonal crop water use.

Some crops have critical development stages during which crop water use is high and must be met in order to fuel rapid growth. If the crop's demand for water is not met during these critical periods, it can result in slowed growth, flower abortion and reduced yield. In most crops, the late vegetative and reproduction stages are energy intensive and require a lot of water for maximum growth and production.

Climatic conditions have a major impact on crop water use. Relative humidity, wind, solar radiation and temperature all affect crop water use. Temperature affects crop water use the most. Temperature drives evaporation and transpiration, two of the greatest factors in crop water use and plant growth.

The figure below illustrates daily crop water use in canola throughout a season. Canola is a crop that requires a lot of water for optimum production. This graph shows that water use is low – about one millimeter per day – shortly after seeding and when the weather is cold and the crop is small and growing slowly. As the crop develops and temperatures rise, water use increases.

Peak water use occurs during the late-vegetative to pod-development stages, when rapid growth is driven by high temperatures and sunlight. After these stages, the crop will begin to ripen and use less water until the end of the season when it is harvested.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Regional Crops Specialist at your nearest Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office.

Pre-harvest a good time to control perennial weeds

by Brent Flaten, PAg, CCA
Integrated Pest Management Specialist
Regional Services Branch

and

by Clark Brenzil, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Weed Control
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Given the right conditions, fall is often a better time to control perennials with herbicide than the spring. It is also important to manage perennial weeds the year prior to seeding crops such as pulses – which are not very competitive – or legume forage stands, due to their limited in-crop control options.

Glyphosate can be used prior to the harvest of selected crops or forages. However, because it does not act quickly like a desiccant (see article on this page), glyphosate should be primarily used for weed control or perennial forage termination. If the weeds are in poor condition, or if they are nearing maturity (for example, foxtail barley or perennial sow thistle), glyphosate's effectiveness may be reduced.

Check with your grain buyer prior to applying glyphosate on registered crops.

Only use glyphosate prior to harvest on registered crops. Grain buyers are increasingly checking for unregistered pesticide residues in grain they purchase. In some cases, buyers of registered crops (particularly malt barley, milling oats and lentils) may have additional restrictions. Therefore, it is a good idea to check with your grain buyer prior to spraying. To ensure low glyphosate residues in marketed crops, be sure not to exceed the labeled rate and apply when the seed moisture is 30 per cent or less.

If a herbicide was previously used in-crop to suppress perennial thistles, make sure the thistles have enough regrowth to ensure adequate glyphosate uptake and movement within the plant. Applying pre-harvest glyphosate to short-season crops in southern Saskatchewan prior to August may result in reduced weed control because perennial weeds may not yet be actively moving nutrients into the roots. A post-harvest application may be more appropriate.

Dandelions may be covered by a thick canopy of crop, making it tough for spray to reach them, which may reduce control. Post-harvest application may be better suited to control dandelions in this case.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Consult the *2013 Guide to Crop Protection* and the Spring Update on the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Guide_to_Crop_Protection;
- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Contact your nearest Regional Crop Specialist.

MORE OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR CROP DESICCATION

by Clark Brenzil, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Weed Control
Crops and Irrigation Branch

and

Brent Flaten, PAg, CCA
Integrated Pest Management Specialist
Regional Services Branch

"Desiccation" or "harvest aid" is the pre-harvest application of a herbicide to rapidly dry plants to make harvest easier. Harvest-aid herbicides destroy cell membranes, allowing the liquid contents to leak out of plant cells and evaporate quickly. Similar to symptoms from a hard frost, plants treated with a desiccant will display a water-soaked appearance within hours or minutes of the application and then become brown and dry within days.

Indeterminate crops such as pulses (lentils, beans, peas, chickpeas and others) fill seed from the bottom of the plant toward the top. As a result, seeds in the lower pods can be ripe while those in the upper pods are still immature with green leaf tissue present. Bottom pods also contain more and bigger seeds, equaling the best yield potential, but are also prone to shattering once ripe, so the best time to harvest pulses is when the bottom pods are dry and rattle but have not split open.

Rapidly drying the plant allows the producer to better manage the harvest date to maximize yield opportunities during this narrow harvest window and to avoid inclement weather that could reduce yield or quality. This is different than pre-harvest weed control with glyphosate, where the effect on the plant is slow, but offers more thorough weed control in the crop (see article on "Pre-harvest Weed Control" on this page).

Until recently, *Reglone* (diquat) was the only herbicide for "desiccation" or "harvest aid". However, Syngenta has recently introduced a low-cost version of diquat called *Desica*. Several of the Group 14 burn-down products (*Aim/CleanStart, Valtera/Chateau, Heat*) also offer harvest-aid uses for select crops. Finally, Farmers of North America have introduced *MPOWER Good Harvest* containing glufosinate. Glufosinate was previously available for harvest-aid uses under the brand *Harvest* several years ago.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Consult the 2013 Guide to Crop Protection and the Spring Update on the Ministry website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Guide_to_Crop_Protection;
- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Contact your nearest Regional Crop Specialist.

Why seed winter wheat?

by Mitchell Japp, M.Sc, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Cereal Crops
Crops and Irrigation Branch

There are several good reasons to consider seeding winter wheat. It has a competitive advantage over weeds and other crop pests. It also offers increased economic returns, efficient use of spring soil moisture, conservation benefits and efficient use of capital and work-load distribution.

Winter wheat has a big yield advantage over spring wheat. Over the past 20 years in Saskatchewan, winter wheat yields have averaged 121 per cent of CWRS. The numbers vary from year to year, but the trend is significant: winter wheat yields very well.

Pest management is an ongoing concern for producers. Winter wheat has inherent advantages over spring-seeded crops that can make pesticide bills lower. With timely, effective fall weed control, winter wheat can be very competitive with spring-germinating weeds. Because winter wheat is up and growing early in spring, it has a competitive advantage and may not require a spring herbicide application. The earlier maturity of winter wheat means that it is often past susceptible growth stages for some pests, such as wheat midge or fusarium head blight.

The combination of good yields and a natural competitive advantage over pests results in excellent potential economic returns from winter wheat. *The 2013 Crop Planning Guide* shows winter wheat returns similar to canola in the Black Soil Climatic Zone. Because of the higher yield potential and lower inputs than other crops, winter wheat is a relatively low-risk crop.

Although winter wheat has excellent yield potential and inputs are lower, it requires good management skills. The best thing winter wheat growers can do is to treat their winter wheat like the high-performance crop it is. With all the benefits of winter wheat, why not try it this fall?

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call the Ministry of Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377;
- Visit: www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/winter-wheat; or
- Visit: www.crop.sask.ca/agriculture/plantsci/winter_cereals/index.php.

THE MANY FUNCTIONS OF COVER CROPS

by Joanne Kowalski, M.Sc, PAg
Regional Crops Specialist, Prince Albert
Regional Services Branch

Cover crops are an important tool that farmers can use to maintain soil quality and manage production issues on the farm. The use of a cover crop is considered to be a best management practice (BMP), a practice based in science and proven to be environmentally and economically sound, while being sustainable in the long term.

While cover crops are successful in reducing soil erosion and increasing organic matter, they perform several other equally important functions, including:

- Reducing pest populations,
- Reducing soil compaction and improving soil structure,
- Managing water,
- Improving soil fertility,
- Reducing nutrient losses, and
- Providing emergency forages.

Cover crops can be used to break disease and pest cycles as part of an integrated pest management strategy. Along with retaining residue, they can prevent crusting at the soil surface and reduce the incidence of salinity as soil dries out. A cover crop can avert the effects of erosion and run-off.

Which species and mixtures of cover crop are best suited for your land depends on the type of soil, topography and the situation to be addressed. If you are looking for a crop to improve fertility, legume species will fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and add it to the soil. To improve soil structure, deep-rooted crops such as alfalfa will aid with soil moisture drainage and infiltration. Breaking disease and pest cycles and suppressing weeds can come about with the use of fast-growing cover crops like spring cereals. Using red clover as a cover crop can provide habitat for bees and other beneficial organisms, such as predatory mites and ladybugs.

The use of cover crops as a strategy in cropping management has come to the forefront this year as high snowfall over the winter and a late spring mean that seeding will likely take place into wet and even saturated soils. A cover crop can be used to address several effects that excess moisture can have on soil and plant growth.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Regional Crops Specialist at your nearest Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Cover crops, like the alfalfa blooms here, can help maintain soil quality.

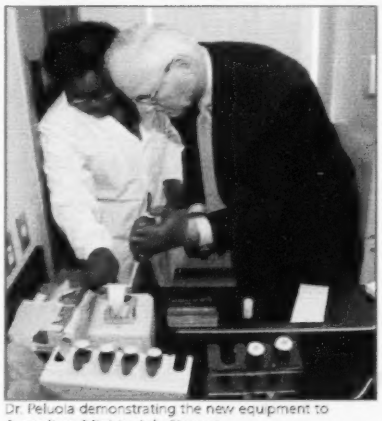
Crop protection lab upgrade: new technology improves clubroot testing

by Cecilia Peluola, PhD, PAg
Supervisor, Crop Protection Laboratory
Crops and Irrigation Branch

A recently completed $200,000 upgrade to the Crop Protection Laboratory in Regina means that technicians can now use "DNA fingerprinting" or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to diagnose disease in crops.

PCR technology involves exposing small segments of DNA to heat, enzymes and primers to create thousands to millions of copies of a particular DNA sequence. The technology allows the lab to provide the agricultural industry with faster, more accurate and timely disease diagnosis.

While PCR can be used for crop, livestock and human diagnostic testing, at the Crop Protection Lab it will be focused initially on clubroot detection in canola. Clubroot, a soil-borne disease that affects the roots of cruciferous crops such as canola and mustard, can cause devastating yield losses. It is present in Alberta, and the disease has been found, to a limited extent, in Saskatchewan. Its presence in Saskatchewan, even in small amounts, is a concern because the disease can spread through movement of soil contaminated with spores of the pathogen. Clubroot was officially declared a pest in Saskatchewan under *The Pest Control Acts* (PCA) in 2009. Having the PCR technology means the Crop Protection Lab will now be able to screen soil samples for the presence of clubroot as part of the monitoring and survey program.



Dr. Peluola demonstrating the new equipment to Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart.

PCR technology has the potential to replace or improve other diagnostic techniques used by the lab. While more work is needed, in the future it may be used to diagnose other major diseases in Saskatchewan such as Fusarium head blight (FHB), blackleg, root rot, aster yellows (*Candidatus Phytoplasma asteris*) viruses and bacteria. Lab staff will be assessing the merit of using PCR technology to further enhance diagnostics capability.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's Crop Protection Laboratory provides insect, disease, weed and plant identification for the Saskatchewan agricultural industry. Plant disease diagnosis is accomplished primarily through fungal and bacterial isolations, and microscopic examination.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Crop Protection Laboratory at 306-787-8130.

SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA: A NEW PEST FOR 2013?

by Forrest Scharf, BA, BSA, AAg
Provincial Specialist, Fruit Crops
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Saskatchewan's soft fruit producers may have another pest to deal with.

The Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) is an invasive fruit fly with potential to damage raspberries, saskatoons, haskap and similar soft fruit.

Originating in southern Asia, the SWD first appeared in North America in California in 2008. In 2009, it was detected in British Columbia. It is now established in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, and has been detected in other Canadian provinces although none were found in Saskatchewan in a 2012 survey.

It is commonly classified as a "vinegar fly" because it is attracted to vinegar, yeast, alcohol and rotting fruit. Its attraction to vinegar is important because this is used to trap the pest. However, unlike most vinegar flies, the SWD lays eggs and feeds on undamaged ripening fruit.

The flies are a few millimetres long, and the females are noticeably bigger than the males, which can be identified by a single spot on the end of their wings. They overwinter as mated females with undeveloped ovaries, and, starting in June, spend roughly one month feeding before laying eggs. At lower temperatures, their chances of surviving the winter decreases significantly. The only way they could overwinter in a place like Saskatchewan is to find man-made habitats or sheltered sites. Seasonal dispersal then allows populations to build to higher numbers throughout the summer.

Spotted Wing Drosophila cannot fly great distances, so their rapid spread throughout North America is likely due to the transport of infected fruit. Researchers in Michigan found the pest habituating on wild saskatoon stands, but so far it has not been detected living in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan Agriculture is conducting a Spotted Wing Drosophila survey again this summer, and will provide pest control product recommendations if the fly is detected.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Forrest Scharf, Provincial Fruit Crop Specialist at 306-787-4666 or forrest.sharf@gov.sk.ca.

Male spotted wing drosophila on blueberries. Photo courtesy of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. © Queen's Printer for Ontario. Reproduced with permission.

AGRIBENCHMARK: tracking international agricultural cost of production data

by Richard Wharton, PAg
Farm Business Management Specialist, Outlook
Regional Services Branch
and
Prof. R.A. Schoney
College of Agriculture and Bioresources
University of Saskatchewan

Globalization means that Saskatchewan wheat producers compete in a world with lots of competitors, so cost efficiency is crucial to their success. For several years, the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture have been participating in the Agribenchmark project, a group of agricultural advisors and researchers who keep track of individual countries' costs of production for many commonly grown export crops.

Using wheat as a comparison crop, Agribenchmark has identified some important competitive factors. Major exporting countries vary considerably in their wheat production characteristics. Some countries, such as those in the northern European Union, have very high yields per acre. This gives them considerable potential advantage in being able to spread fixed costs over more tonnes. Russia and Ukraine, on the other hand, mostly have very low land costs but they also have relatively low farm gate commodity prices, so producers there do not have as much incentive to innovate.

Another factor that affects wheat production is competition from other crops. In parts of the United States and in many other wheat-exporting countries, soybeans have become competitive because of increasing yields, resulting in a shift of some of their better wheat land into soybean production, potentially reducing their overall competitiveness in the short run.

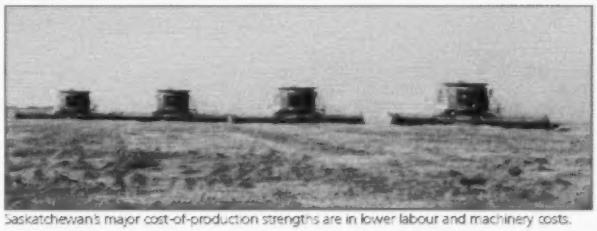
Excluding South America, most of the major wheat-exporting countries have total farm gate costs per tonne that are very similar to Saskatchewan. In parts of Russia, Ukraine and North Dakota the unit cost of production is virtually identical to Saskatchewan. In Germany, France and Australia, unit costs are about eight to 11 per cent higher than Saskatchewan.

On a per unit-tonne basis, Saskatchewan's strengths are mostly in lower labour and machinery costs. A major weakness is the cost of pesticides, as this is spread over lower yields resulting in a relatively high cost per tonne.

The final two important components in competitiveness are quality and logistical costs to final destination. Saskatchewan's quality is very high, but in terms of logistics, its location is less than favourable. Since transshipment to Japan can represent more than 60 per cent of total production costs, improving transshipment efficiency will be important to improving wheat producers' returns.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Richard Wharton, Farm Business Management Specialist, at 306-867-5577 or richard.wharton@gov.sk.ca; or
- Visit Agribenchmark at www.agribenchmark.org.



Saskatchewan's major cost-of-production strengths are in lower labour and machinery costs.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE SCOTT FIELD DAY, JULY 17

by Sherrilyn Phelps, M.Sc., PAg, CCA
Regional Crops Specialist, North Battleford
Regional Services Branch

The annual Scott Field Day is set for Wednesday, July 17, 2013, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Western Applied Research Corporation (WARC), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Saskatchewan Agriculture are showcasing the research and demonstration projects at the Scott Research Farm. This year's projects include innovations in weed control and disease management, as well as various crop input studies.

For 2013, WARC is also working with the Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission to add a special emphasis on mustard research. Mustard varieties, weed control and agronomics will be addressed, as well as the latest developments in condiment and industrial mustard. There will also be a "Mustards of the World" demonstration where attendees can actually taste some different greens and wake up your taste buds.

Also featured is a project looking at kochia control. With herbicide resistance being an issue, knowing the biology of kochia and seeing options that may work for you will help with planning for next year.

Disease control will also be discussed. One project examines the timing of fungicide applications in cereals, and another will look at disease management in pulses. Blackleg and other diseases of canola will be discussed and, if symptoms are present, participants will get to see first-hand the symptomology.

One stop on the tour will look at the impact of various legumes in rotation on the nitrogen balance and yields of succeeding crops. Another stop will examine the survival of a variety of forage species that were seeded into a salinity gradient two years ago.

Other projects to be showcased include corn and soybean varieties, seeding rates for oilseeds and a pulse input study. The annual insect update is always of interest to producers.

This field day is a "must-attend" event for anyone interested in the latest crop research results.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the website at www.warc.ca;
- Contact the Western Applied Research Corporation at 306-247-2001; or
- Contact Sherrilyn Phelps, Regional Crops Specialist, at 306-446-7475 or sherrilyn.phelps@gov.sk.ca.

Seeking volunteers to join the "AIR" force

by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is looking for volunteers in Saskatchewan to boost the size and reach of its Agroclimate Impact Reporter (AIR) network. New volunteers will provide local information about their weather and environmental conditions. Their efforts will help AAFC accurately represent current conditions and identify emerging risks to the broader agricultural sector.

Monitoring the impact of weather on water supplies, soil degradation and agricultural production is essential to enable regions to make preparations to withstand climate extremes in a more informed manner. Data collection began more than 15 years ago as a way of gathering regional information on forage production and farm water supplies to assist in monitoring drought. In 2012, AAFC expanded this activity to include a wider range of weather- and climate-related risks to agriculture.

Today the AIR network has 300 volunteer contributors across the Prairie Region. Each month, AIR volunteers provide regional climate-related information by completing a report of 20 to 30 questions. Completed reports are submitted online or by phone. This information then helps AAFC to determine and better develop appropriate response, adaptation and mitigation measures against adverse agroclimate impacts.

Extreme weather events and climatic variability can have significant effects on Canada's agricultural sector. Over the past 10 years, drought and excess moisture or flooding resulted in enormous costs to the Canadian economy. Having access to timely and accurate information will help AAFC and farmers to plan for potential disasters.

A new online application, launched in June 2013, allows AIR volunteers to file their reports and view agroclimate impact maps and information on the Web at www.agr.gc.ca/air. AAFC will continue to expand the AIR network, with the ultimate goal of making it national.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, or if you want to join the AIR network in Saskatchewan, please contact:

- Shirley Sawatzky (Western Saskatchewan) at Shirley.Sawatzky@agr.gc.ca; or
- Jim Daschle (Eastern Saskatchewan) at Jim.Daschle@agr.gc.ca; or
- Trevor Hadwen (National Project Lead) at Trevor.Hadwen@agr.gc.ca.

JULY IS THE TIME TO LOOK FOR WHEAT MIDGE

by Scott Hartley, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Insect and Vertebrate Pests
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Early to mid-July is usually the peak period for wheat midge in Saskatchewan. The wheat midge forecast map indicated a moderate-to-high risk for wheat crops across central regions of the province. Increased moisture conditions in the southwest have resulted in higher populations and associated risk.

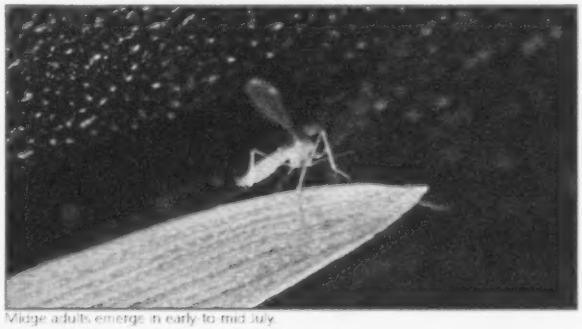
Temperature accumulation is a key factor in estimating time of emergence of the wheat midge adults from the soil. Wet soils will have a cooling effect and generally result in a later-than-expected emergence of the wheat midge flies.

To determine midge populations and, if necessary, timing of an insecticide application, growers are urged to monitor wheat fields during the susceptible period (when the wheat head becomes visible as the boot splits until mid-flowering). Checking in several spots in a field will improve the accuracy of estimates of midge populations for determining if control is warranted. Regular field scouting on multiple nights in succession is important to understand population changes in a particular field. Keep in mind that temperature and wind conditions significantly influence egg laying by the adult female midge.

For conventional wheat varieties, an insecticide application is recommended when the crop is heading and adult midge density is one midge per four to five wheat heads. To maintain optimum grade, insecticide should be used when the adult midge population reaches one per eight to 10 wheat heads. A late insecticide application should be avoided as it is not cost effective and will have a negative affect on the midge parasites that are still active.

FOR MORE INFORMATION and for updates during the season:

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



Midge adults emerge in early to mid July.

Anthrax: a new response plan for 2013

by Dr. Betty Althouse, DVM
Chief Veterinary Officer
Livestock Branch

The Province of Saskatchewan has developed an anthrax control program to assist producers affected by livestock deaths from anthrax. This became necessary after the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced that they would not have an anthrax control program after April 1, 2013.

Prevention of the disease by vaccination is the best control.

If grazing animals die suddenly on pasture this summer, anthrax could be the cause. This disease occurs when animals ingest anthrax spores from the environment. It does not spread directly among animals. Animals may show a short course of illness, with shortness of breath, swellings and staggering. Often, they are just found dead. Carcasses may show bloody discharges from body openings, decompose rapidly or show no signs of stiffening after death. A veterinary diagnosis is required to confirm anthrax and producers should contact their local veterinarian for help. The laboratory test for anthrax is performed by Prairie Diagnostic Services in Saskatoon. The province will also be supplying some carcass-side diagnostic test kits to veterinarians in higher-risk areas.

Once an anthrax case is confirmed, the veterinarian must report it to the CFIA. The office of the provincial Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) must also be notified. The Province will communicate information about positive cases to industry groups and veterinary practices, as well as inform the public.

Producers with confirmed cases of anthrax will receive provincial assistance and advice. Short-term movement controls will be put in place via a Quarantine Order (QO), and any animals that left the premises in the previous seven days will be traced. Further conditions will specify the method of carcass disposal to reduce the spread of the disease. Once carcasses have been disposed of, a farm inspection will be made to verify that proper disposal occurred. At that time, the QO movement restrictions can be removed if no further deaths have occurred for seven days.

Producers are responsible for all costs associated with proper disposal. As well, the initial veterinary visit and any veterinary services related to treatment and vaccination remains the producer's responsibility. The Province will pay for anthrax testing and veterinary fees for veterinarians who provide anthrax response on behalf of the Province.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

NATIONAL BIOSECURITY STANDARD DEVELOPED FOR CANADIAN DAIRY FARMS

by Kathryn Tonita, M.Sc, PAg
Animal Health Program Officer
Livestock Branch

In February 2013, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) released a new national biosecurity standard for Canadian dairy farms.

The standard was developed jointly by CFIA's Office of Animal Biosecurity and the Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) with funding provided under the *Growing Forward* Agriculture Policy Framework and the guidance of an advisory committee of industry leaders, government representatives, dairy producers and academics. The Canadian national standard emerged from the "One World/One Health" strategy promoted by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), as well as the need to verify the on-farm practices that contribute to a country's animal health status for market access.

The CFIA's definition of farm-level biosecurity is a series of management practices designed to minimize or prevent and control:

- the introduction of infectious disease agents onto a farm;
- the spread within a farm production operation; and
- the export of these disease agents beyond the farm that may have an adverse effect on the economy, environment and human health.

Traditional methods of disease prevention, such as medication and vaccination, have played a major role in disease management; however, alone they cannot prevent the incidence of all diseases. Modern dairy farms require a more comprehensive approach to disease prevention by improving disease resistance and reducing exposure to infectious agents.

The national standard and the accompanying producer planning guide provide producers with the tools needed to develop on-farm biosecurity plans related to four control areas:

- animal health management,
- animal additions and movement,
- premises management and sanitation and
- personnel, visitors, vehicles and equipment.

The standard encourages producers to maintain a veterinarian-client-patient relationship to help prevent disease outbreaks and ensure early detection and treatment of diseases in dairy cattle.

To obtain a copy of the *Biosecurity for Canadian Dairy Farms: National Standard* or to get more information, visit the CFIA website at www.inspection.gc.ca and look under Animals/Terrestrial Animals/Biosecurity/Standards and Principles/National Standard.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Consult your local veterinarian.

Minimize leaf loss when twine-wrapping alfalfa hay

by Lorne Klein, PAg
Regional Forage Specialist, Weyburn
Regional Services Branch

Producers who twine-wrap round alfalfa hay bales may be losing a significant amount of leaves.

An Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) project measured leaf loss when twine-wrapping large, round 100 per cent alfalfa hay bales at three separate moisture conditions.

At one location, the alfalfa windrows dried to 14.5 per cent moisture content (MC) or lower. The stems were completely cured and snapped when bent. The bales were 72 inches and rotated 15 revolutions during wrapping.

A first set of four bales (dry) was made in the mid-afternoon, during low relative humidity and an air temperature of 25 C. The leaf piles were quite dense due to leaf shatter and averaged 47 pounds per bale.

A second set of four bales (intermediate) was made in the early evening when the stems were still dry and snapping but the leaves were moist. The next day, moisture probe readings registered 20 to 40 per cent MC. The leaf piles appeared similar in size to the dry bale piles, but averaged only seven pounds per bale.

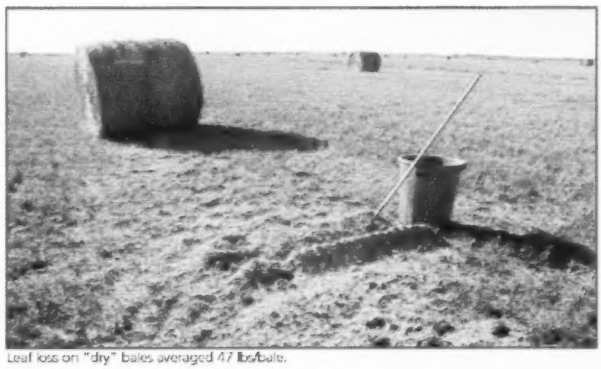
A third set of four bales (wet) was baled when the stems had picked up enough moisture that they no longer snapped when bent. The next day, the moisture probe readings averaged 45 per cent MC. The leaf piles were negligible.

In November, the bales were sampled for feed testing. The dry and intermediate bales retained good colour and odour. The wet bales were discoloured and smelled mouldy but, surprisingly, showed no significant loss in feed quality.

Baling an alfalfa crop under perfect conditions to minimize leaf loss is challenging. Some days, the window of time between "too dry" and "too wet" can be relatively short. One way to reduce leaf loss is to use net wrap. Another option to lengthen the baling window is to apply hay preservatives as the humidity increases.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or a copy of the complete report:

- Contact Lorne Klein, Regional Forage Specialist, at 306-848-2382 or at lorne.klein@gov.sk.ca.



Leaf loss on "dry" bales averaged 47 lbs/bale.

FORAGE TERMINATION STRATEGIES

by Trevor Lennox, MAg, PAg
Regional Forage Specialist, Swift Current
Regional Services Branch
and

by Allan Foster, PAg
Regional Forage Specialist, Tisdale
Regional Services Branch

Perennial forages in rotation with annual crops can be an effective way to extend crop rotations, reduce input costs and help lower financial risk. However, one of the challenges when using perennial forages is getting a good kill of the forage stand when terminating.

There are essentially three termination options for hay land and pasture: tillage, herbicides or a combination of both. As zero-till and minimum-till have become mainstays on many Saskatchewan farms, there has been a shift from forage termination strategies dominated by tillage to ones dominated by herbicides. In some situations, a two-pronged approach that uses both chemicals and tillage at strategic times can be very beneficial.

Regardless of the strategy used, the timing of the termination treatment has a large impact on both the success of the treatment and the yield potential of the succeeding annual crop. Terminating forage in the summer or fall for seeding the next year is generally more successful than spring termination. Chemical forage termination is most effective in July to September as more energy is being diverted to the roots at this time of year. Terminating in the summer or fall also allows additional time for soil moisture to recharge, and helps improve nutrient availability for the succeeding crop.

When herbicides are used to terminate a forage stand, they should be applied when the target plants are actively growing. Glyphosate should be applied at least five days prior to cultivation. If the forage is to be harvested, glyphosate should be applied as a pre-harvest treatment three to seven days prior to the final harvest. This allows adequate time for uptake and translocation of the herbicide within the plant.

If herbicides are part of the termination strategy, using recommended products at the proper rate and timing will help ensure a successful transition. Do not skimp on chemical rates and keep water volume high (i.e. 10 gallons/ac.) to allow adequate canopy coverage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your nearest Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office.

Saskatchewan Agriculture is hosting a Forage Termination Strategies webinar at 8 a.m. (Saskatchewan time) on August 8, 2013. Dr. Paul Jefferson, PhD., PAg, will discuss possible strategies and points to consider when taking forages out of production for a return to annual cropping.

Space is limited, and producers are encouraged to reserve a place by visiting https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/360676394. Confirmation of registration will be emailed to you along with more details about joining the seminar. The webinar will still be available for viewing after August 8, but producers still need to register before August 8 in order to access it.

Notice to producers: high sulphate levels found in Fishing Lake area may pose risk to livestock

by Kathryn Tonita, M.Sc, PAg
Animal Health Program Officer
Livestock Branch

In 2012, the Water Security Agency (WSA) found that sulphate concentrations in Fishing, Hazel, Stoney, Whitesand, Dog and Newburn lakes exceeded 1000 mg/L. Sulphate concentrations in these lakes are likely to remain above 1000 mg/l during 2013. Sulphate levels may also be elevated in the upper reaches of the Whitesand River due to water from Fishing Lake draining eastward during high water levels.

High levels of sulphur in water can be detrimental in any class of farm animals, but ruminants such as sheep and cows are most susceptible. Livestock may not show clinical signs of illness, but producers may face economic losses due to poor growth, lactation and reproduction in their herds.

High concentrations of sulphates are common in groundwater on the Prairies, but can also be found in surface sources such as lakes, streams and sloughs. The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) guidelines suggest that the maximum sulphate concentration for livestock is 1000 mg/L.

High sulphates can lead to trace mineral (copper, zinc, iron, manganese) deficiencies, as well as thiamine (vitamin B1) deficiency also known as nutritional polio. Symptoms may include poor hair coat, reduced growth rate, weight loss, reduced fertility, low conception and ovulation rates and reduced semen quality. The amount of sulphate in a ruminant diet is not only determined by the water source, but by feed and environmental conditions.

For example, alfalfa is a common feed with relatively high sulphur content. While it is not a concern by itself, it can contribute to total dietary sulphur content.

If sulphate levels in your water are above 1000 mg/L, finding a better quality source of water is the best solution. However, this may not always be a long-term solution. High sulphate levels in livestock water must be offset by providing well-balanced rations, including adequate trace minerals. It is important to ensure that the animals' intake of minerals is two to three ounces per head per day. The ideal situation is to mix the minerals with feed (for example, silage) and feed as a total mixed ration. However, if you are feeding free choice, the intake must be monitored. Animals may not go after blocks or tubs of mineral with additional salt if their drinking water already has a high sodium level.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on sulphates and water quality for livestock:

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377;
- Contact the Regional Livestock Specialist at your nearest Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office;
- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca and look under Livestock Water Quality Guide; or
- Visit the Water Security Agency's website at www.wsask.ca.

CORRAL RUNOFF MANAGEMENT

by Bryan Gourlie, P.Eng
Provincial Environmental Engineer
Livestock Branch

Runoff from livestock pens and manure and silage storage areas must be prevented from entering watercourses. Holding ponds are designed to intercept and temporarily store a minimum of 7.5 centimetres of runoff from the total area that drains into it.

These ponds must be regularly managed to ensure capacity is available for the spring runoff or the next rainfall. With many shallow holding ponds, evaporation during warm summer days may be all the management that is needed. On the other hand, the smaller surface area of deep ponds – and shallow ponds with insufficient capacity – will require the pond being emptied onto nearby crop land when soil moisture levels are low. This can be accomplished by pumping to an irrigation nozzle or slow flood release. If long-term management of pond water is a problem, consider enlarging the pond.

Slow flood release can be accomplished through repeated slow releases of water over a period of several days or weeks as conditions allow. Use a splash pad or other means at the hose outlet to disperse the water and reduce the water velocity to minimize the potential for erosion. Monitor the flooding process to ensure the water does not channel, enter a watercourse or leave the property.

Operations with large-volume holding ponds are encouraged to obtain the necessary equipment to manage their runoff water properly. Opportunities may exist to share the cost of this equipment with nearby operations.

In emergency situations when rapid emptying is necessary, or when increasing your holding pond capacity, contact the Ministry of Agriculture specialists for assistance.

Moose Jaw Region	Saskatoon Region	Yorkton Region
306-694-3672	306-933-5322	306-786-1429
306-694-3673	306-933-5095	306-786-1505

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Saskatchewan Agriculture Livestock Branch at 306-787-4678.

Researchers develop more efficient way to breed barley for specific uses

In North America, barley is grown primarily as livestock feed or for use in the malting/brewing industry, but it is gaining popularity as a human food.

The problem is: the grain component that makes barley a valuable human food—beta-glucans—reduces its utility for livestock feeding and malting. Beta-glucans most commonly occur in plants in cell walls, providing strength to plants fibres and in the bran of cereal grains. Barley has one of the highest concentrations of grain beta-glucans in the plant kingdom, but the actual amount varies considerably, depending on the variety.

Beta-glucans are beneficial to human health. They lower serum low-density lipo-protein cholesterol and blood sugar levels, reducing the risk of developing heart disease and Type 2 diabetes. As a result, there is a growing demand in the human food market for barley with high concentrations of beta-glucans. The opposite is the case in the livestock feed and brewing industries. There, they prefer low beta-glucan barley because too much beta-glucan can reduce feed conversion in animals and clog filters in breweries.

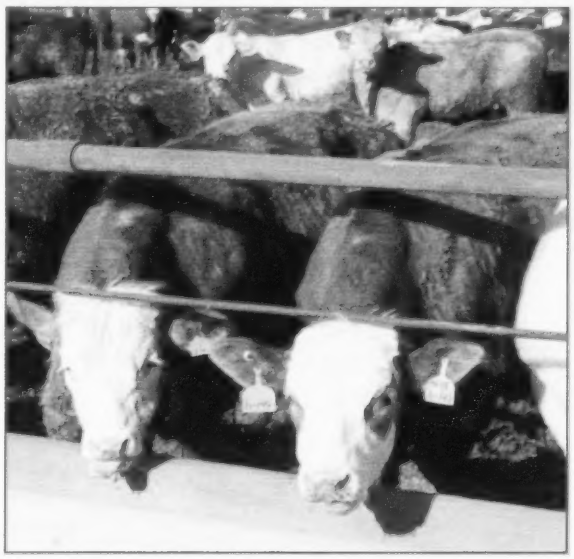
In effect, there are barley varieties specific for human consumption, livestock feed and malting, respectively. Plant breeders could not confirm the end-use of a variety they were developing until they produced the first crop and analyzed it for beta-glucan concentration. This consumed a lot of time and resources.

Researchers at the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Plant Sciences thought there had to be a better way.

With the financial support of the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), doctors Ravindra Chibbar, Monica Båga and Brian Rossnagel set out to find a better way by identifying, isolating and characterizing the gene or genes involved in the production of beta-glucans in barley grain. Their main objective was to find genetic markers that would allow plant breeders to select in early generations at the molecular level high- and low- beta-glucan barley lines.

A genetic marker is typically a piece of DNA that corresponds to a specific region on a chromosome associated with a particular gene and/or trait. In the laboratory, these markers can be used to quickly distinguish specific cells, individuals, populations or species.

With this background, the researchers screened barley genome using a variety of molecular markers and employed genetic mapping techniques to identify specific markers that would clearly distinguish between high beta-glucan genotypes (ex. CDC Bold) and low beta-glucan genotypes (ex. TR251). The researchers then analyzed recombinant inbred line (RIL) barley population developed by crossing a high and low beta-glucan concentration to produce plants containing the full spectrum of beta-glucan concentrations. The RILs were used to test the accuracy of the molecular markers. Field trials were conducted to validate the lab results against the field results.



The malting, feedlot and health food industries each require a different type of barley. Plant-breeders can now determine in the lab which type of barley they are breeding.

Successful completion of this project resulted in four easily identifiable markers that will help barley breeders everywhere to accelerate the development of barley varieties with specific beta-glucan concentrations.

This will contribute to the competitiveness of barley growers by helping them to select genotypes to meet the specific requirements of their customers.

The Agriculture Development Fund provides funding to institutions, companies and industry organizations to help them carry out research, development and value-added activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector. The results produce new knowledge, information and choices in technologies, techniques and varieties for farmers, ranchers, processors and input suppliers, to improve the competitiveness of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector.

In 2013, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture committed $9.9 million in new funding for 61 ADF research projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture research reports page at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/ADF/Search and enter the report number, #20080130, into the search function.

Growing Forward 2

Farm Development Initiative: keeping a good thing growing

by Ken Evans, Dip AASc
Farm Business Management Specialist, Weyburn Regional Services Branch

The Farm Business Development Initiative (FBDI) under the federal-provincial agreement, Growing Forward, ended on March 31, 2013. More than 4,000 applicants accessed more than $10 million in funding to adapt or improve their farm business management practices.

Under Growing Forward 2, the FBDI program will continue so that eligible farmers and ranchers can get advice and training to make sound business decisions and enhance profitability.

Applicants may access training and consulting services under eight defined areas of farm management:

- Business Strategy
- Marketing
- Production Economics
- Human Resources
- Financial Management
- Succession Planning
- Business Structure
- Environmental Strategy

Producers may receive 75 per cent reimbursement of their training expenses and 50 per cent of their consulting costs up to a combined maximum of $10,000 per person. They can also be partially reimbursed for training expenses under eight farm management areas:

	Training	Consulting
Business Strategy	$3,000	$5,000
Marketing	$8,000	$2,000
Production Economics	$5,000	$2,000
Human Resources	$5,000	$2,000
Financial Management	$5,000	$2,000
Succession Planning	$3,000	$5,000
Business Structure	$3,000	$2,000
Environmental Strategy	$3,000	$2,000

All applicants need to complete a Taking Stock self-assessment document. Then a Farm Development Plan is created with the help of the Regional Farm Business Management Specialist to identify actions the farmer wishes to pursue within the eight farm management areas.

After those two initial steps are complete, an application for funding may be submitted and the training or consulting activities can begin.

Growing Forward 2 (GF2) is a federal-provincial-territorial policy framework of agricultural programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your nearest Regional Farm Business Management Specialist; or
- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

AGRICULTURE AWARENESS UPDATE

Agriculture is an economic driver in Saskatchewan. It contributes significantly to the province's GDP and employs more than 50,000 people across the province. Saskatchewan's agriculture industry feeds the world – with more than 90 per cent of Saskatchewan's agricultural products exported to 18 countries and $11 billion in agri-food exports in 2012.

Agriculture is also care for the land and livestock. It provides financial security in Saskatchewan and food security across the globe.

Consumers however, have become removed from a rural lifestyle and increasingly disconnected from their food – where it comes from and how it is produced.

For that reason, the Ministry of Agriculture has made agriculture awareness a strategic priority. Agriculture awareness is improving the perception of agriculture. But it is also ensuring that farmers and ranchers can operate and access the tools and technologies that will help them be more productive, sustainable and competitive.

The Ministry has drafted an agriculture awareness strategy that will be taken to industry for feedback. To provide a benchmark and identify issues, markets where work needs to be done, the Ministry took part in an omnibus survey in Saskatchewan this past March.

The results show:

- Citizens have a positive perception of agriculture.
- Saskatchewanians are divided on genetically modified organisms in food as necessary to feed the world. This is especially true of women and lower-income families.
- Level of education and number of children had little impact on responses.
- There is strong support for agricultural education in schools.

The results of this survey provide a great starting point for the industry's efforts to build public support.

To view the full results of the survey:

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

Growing Forward 2

Appraising crop yields before harvest

Too wet or too dry? Hail damage or early frost? The success of a crop is dependent on the weather; and weather is highly variable from day to day and year to year. It also differs from place to place in the province. But if you have multi-peril Crop Insurance, you're covered.

Each customer decides how to best use the production from insured acres according to the specific conditions on their farm and their individual management plan. If you suffer from a weather event this summer and don't believe it is in your best interest to harvest the crop, contact the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to register a pre-harvest claim. After SCIC conducts a pre-harvest appraisal, you can put your acres to a use other than harvest, such as baling or grazing.

While SCIC doesn't make you harvest your crop, it doesn't write-off your crop either. A pre-harvest appraisal captures the salvage value of the crop as there may be some potential value. It is this value that must be appraised if the crop will not be harvested. The appraisal is used in the calculation of any subsequent claims.

SCIC advises that you accompany the adjuster during any inspections. An adjuster will determine a yield based on plant counts and will also count the number of seeds per plant if the crop was headed. The adjuster will record and explain all information to you.

Inspections will be processed when you inform SCIC the crop has been put to a use other than harvest, which SCIC may verify. If you decide to leave the crop for harvest, the actual harvested production will be used in the calculation of a claim.

Depending on the circumstances, SCIC may not immediately conduct an inspection. Some crops have the ability to recover from damage, especially after early hail storms. Because recovery is dependent on weather conditions, SCIC may not be able to accurately appraise yield immediately following the storm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the nearest Crop Insurance office;
- Call 1-888-935-0000; or
- Visit www.saskcropinsurance.com.

CHANGING YOUR FARM BUSINESS STRUCTURE: AGRISTABILITY IMPLICATIONS

by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

As Saskatchewan farms evolve and adapt to today's opportunities and challenges many are adjusting their business structure. Sole proprietors incorporating, individuals entering or leaving a partnership and new trusts are all examples of how some farm operations are adjusting their structures to meet their business needs. For farm operations participating in the AgriStability Program, going through a change in business structure, it is important to let SCIC know about the change as soon as possible to ensure the transfer of program information occurs smoothly.

The first step in the process is to complete a *Change Business Type* form found at www.saskcropinsurance.com/agristability. The information entered on this form will clarify the change in business structure which is occurring. The form will collect details about the current business operation and the new business structure. By getting the correct business information SCIC can begin the process of transferring the farm's previous program history to the new business.

If the previous farm structure no longer exists, such as an individual who has turned the farm into a corporation, a *Cancel Participation* form will need to be completed. This will ensure additional fees and enrollment notices are not sent to the previous farming operation. For the new operation a Participant Initial Declaration will also need to be signed. While the participant may have completed this when they initially enrolled in AgriStability, the new farm operation will have to complete this again, because it is considered a new legal entity for the AgriStability Program.

For farm operations which have incorporated SCIC requires a couple more documents for continuing with the AgriStability Program. A list of signing officers, a copy of the Section 85 Rollover document provided to the Canada Revenue Agency and all relevant income and expense information for the rollover year from both the previous entity and new corporation will be required. SCIC will also need the date of incorporation, the legal name and business number which can be provided on the *Change Business Type* form. All of this information is used to verify details of the new corporation and develop the proper program margins to participate in AgriStability. By completing and submitting the required information, the processing of future AgriStability applications will be able to occur more efficiently.

SCIC wants to ensure the transfer of AgriStability information for the new business occurs as smoothly as possible. As part of that effort SCIC will work to transition the AgriStability eligibility requirements from the previous business to the new entity. If you have any questions about the AgriStability requirements for changes in business types please contact your nearest Crop Insurance office or the AgriStability Call Centre at 1-866-270-8450.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	INTERNET
July 5, 2013	Deadline to report seeded greenfeed acres.		1-888-935-0000	www.saskcropinsurance.com
July 11, 2013	Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre Annual Irrigation Field Day and Tradeshow	SCDIC Farm Outlook, SK	306-867-5528	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
July 17, 2013	Scott Field Day	Scott Research Farm Scott, SK	306-247-2001	www.wcrc.ca
July 18, 2013	Low Input Field Day and Workshop	Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre (SPARC) Swift Current, SK	306-778-8285	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
July 23-24, 2013	Crop Diagnostic School 2013	Swift Current, SK	306-446-7475	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
July 30-31, 2013	Crop Diagnostic School 2013	Indian Head, SK	306-446-7475	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca
August 25, 2013	Deadline to select winterkill coverage for fall rye and winter wheat.		1-888-935-0000	www.saskcropinsurance.com

The Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program: *Preparing young producers to be future industry leaders*

by Krystal Aulie, B.Comm
Provincial Business Management Specialist, HR and Youth Regional Services Branch

On May 2, 2013, the federal and Saskatchewan governments announced a new program designed to develop the leadership skills of young farmers and ranchers of the province. The Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program provides $500,000 over five years to industry associations to coordinate and support mentorships between young producers and industry leaders. This program will help young producers gain valuable skills, while connecting industry associations with future leaders.

Through the program, industry associations are eligible to receive up to $4,000 per mentorship, to a maximum of $20,000 per association. Mentorships may consist of a combination of meetings between eligible young producers and the mentor and attendance at industry events. The program will encourage and support youth in entering a career in the sector.

The Youth Leadership and Mentorship Program is the first provincial program aimed at developing leadership capacity for all sectors of the agricultural industry. The program has been modeled after the Cattleman's Young Leaders (CYL) Program, which provides a combination of formal and informal opportunities for young producers to learn from beef cattle industry leaders. Established in 2010, the CYL program has seen significant success and growth over the years.

Funding for the program is provided under the federal-provincial Growing Forward 2 Framework.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Krystal Aulie, Provincial Business Management Specialist, at 306-798-0947 or [illegible]; or
- Visit [illegible].

Important Notice
for Farm Fuel Permit Holders

2013 Fuel Tax Exemption Permit Returns were due May 31, 2013. If you have not submitted a completed return by July 31, 2013, your Fuel Tax Exemption Permit will be cancelled.

Returns can be filed electronically on the Ministry of Finance website at **www.gov.sk.ca/finance/ffp** by selecting Fuel Tax Exemption Permit Renewal, then entering your 8-digit electronic filing access code. Returns can also be mailed to:

Farm Fuel Program
P.O. Box 5012
Regina, SK S4P 3M3

If you have questions, please call **1-800-667-7587**.

Government of Saskatchewan

Government of Saskatchewan
Ministry of Agriculture